

**Record of the
Proceedings of the Queensland Parliament**

...
**Legislative Assembly
28th June 1860**

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Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Moreton Bay Courier 30th June 1860

The Speaker took the chair at twenty minutes past 3 o'clock, and read prayers.

ATTENDANCE ON COMMITTEES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY drew the attention of hon. members to the necessity of more punctual attendance at meetings of select committees. In consequence of the absence of the chairman of one of these committees on that day, no business had been done; and considerable inconvenience had been entailed upon a gentleman who had been summoned to attend from a considerable distance to give evidence.

A desultory conversation ensued on the subject, but was put a stop to by the Speaker, who observed that there was no question before the house.

POLICE DEPARTMENTS' COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Select Committee on the Police Departments brought up a progress report, which intimated that it would be some time before the labours of the committee could be brought to a close. The report therefore recommended that the estimates for this department should be dealt with by the house irrespectively of the labours of the committee; but advised, with reference to the salary of the Inspector-General, that it should be reduced to £550.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The SPEAKER announced and read a message (No. 6) forwarded by his Excellency, stating that steps had been taken in accordance with the resolution of the house to secure the services of Capt. Denham, for the survey of the estuaries of the Burdekin River.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. MOFFAT, in pursuance of previous notice, asked the Colonial Treasurer—(1.) Why the sum of £800 voted for the erection of a court-house and lock-up at Calandoon, by the New South Wales Government, in 1859, has not been placed on the estimates for 1860, now before the house. (2.) Whether it is the intention of the Government now to provide for this service by placing the above sum of £800 on the supplementary estimates for 1860.

The COLONIAL TREASURER, in reply, said that the government regulated the appropriations by the Estimates of New South Wales for 1860. No application had yet been made from Calandoon for this sum, but the government would place it on the estimates for the purpose stated.

CENSUS FOR 1861.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in asking leave to introduce a Bill to authorize the government to take a census of the population for 1861, observed that the provisions of the bill were identical with those of similar measures in the other colonies.

Leave having been granted, the Bill was subsequently brought in, read a first time, and

ordered to be read a second time on Thursday next.

TEMPORARY ACTS BILL.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL the order of the day for the second reading of this Bill was discharged from the paper; the measure being, as explained by the learned gentlemen, perfectly useless in the present state of legislation.

LIEN ON WOOL ACT.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL this Bill was also discharged from the paper, with the view to the introduction of a measure of a more comprehensive character which would be ready in a fortnight.

SUPPLY.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER the Speaker left the chair, and the house resolved itself into a committee of supply for the consideration of the Estimates for 1860.

The COLONIAL TREASURER then moved the following items for his own department, explaining the duties of each officer for whom a salary was asked, and the details under the general head of contingencies.

Under Secretary	...	...	...	...	...	£500
Clerk, 1st class	...	...	...	...	...	275
2 Clerks, 2nd class	...	...	...	...	...	350
Office-keeper	...	...	...	...	...	20
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	290

The items were voted without discussion.

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed £600 as the salary for the Collector of Customs at Brisbane; and in reply to Mr. Watts, stated that the duties of this officer had considerably increased since separation and the Government had made an addition to his salary in consequence.

The question was put and passed.

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed the following items, which were voted without discussion.

Landing Waiter and Inspector of Bonded

Stores, Brisbane	...	...	...	...	...	£325
Chief Clerk, 1st class	...	...	...	...	...	300
Tide Surveyor	...	...	...	...	...	275
Clerk, 2nd class	...	...	...	...	...	200

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed that the sum of £160 be granted as the salary of the locker at the Custom House, Brisbane.

Mr. BLAKENEY complained of the smallness of the amount and drew attention to the important and responsible situation of the locker, whom it was the interest of the government to pay well, in order to raise him above temptation. He said that the Custom House frauds that had been lately discovered in Sydney, and which were the cause of serious loss to the revenue of the neighbouring colony, were chiefly traceable to the miserable manner in which certain of the Custom House officers had been paid.

The COLONIAL TREASURER stated that the Government were not aware that the locker had applied for any increase to his salary; but they would always be ready to take such cases into consideration when brought under their notice in the regular manner. The item was then passed.

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed the following amounts, which were then passed:—

Messenger, Office-keeper, and Keeper of the Powder Magazine	...	...	...	...	£118
Coxswain	....	....	...	...	120
4 Boatmen, at £96 each	...	...	...	...	384
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	554

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed £400 as the salary of the Sub-collector of Customs at Wide Bay.

Mr. WATTS moved as an amendment that the sum be reduced to £325, which would be equivalent to the salary of the Landing Waiter and Inspector of Bonded Stores at Brisbane.

The amendment having been put was lost, and the original sum voted.

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed the following items, which were passed in detail.

Coxswain Wide Bay	...	...	...	...	£120
4 Boatmen, at £96 each	...	...	...	...	384
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	145

On proposing the sum of £260 for the Sub-collector at Port Curtis, the COLONIAL TREASURER explained that it was the amount payable for the current year at the rate of £300 per annum.

The question having been put was passed.

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed the following sums, which were passed in detail without discussion:—

Coxswain, Port Curtis	...	...	...	...	£105
4 Boatmen, at £96 each	...	...	...	...	384
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	123
Sub-collector, Rockhampton	...	...	...	...	325
Coxswain	...	...	...	...	120
4 Boatmen, at £96 each	...	...	...	...	384
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	80

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed £250 towards meeting the expense of a Bonded Store at Ipswich. He said memorials had been presented to the government, signed by a large number of business men interested in the trade of Ipswich, praying for the establishment of this store, and in consequence the government had felt bound to place a sum on the estimates for that purpose.

Mr. RAFF said the Treasurer was bound to afford the committee some information as to the advantages to be derived from the establishment of a bonded store at Ipswich. He considered the Government had taken a very miserable course in coming down to the committee with such a proposal as the one the Treasurer had just made. He expected that they would have been prepared with some comprehensive measure for the establishment of bonded stores throughout the colony, and not that they would ask for the paltry sum of £250, which he considered totally inadequate for the purpose, for the establishment of a single store at Ipswich. He would like to hear from the Government how they intended to expend this money.

The COLONIAL TREASURER stated that the Government only desired to test the feeling of the house by placing this sum on the estimates. (Ironical cheers.)

The COLONIAL SECRETARY believed that although the amount proposed appeared small, it would be found sufficient for the current year. The Government would not be required to

build a store, as seemed to be supposed by some, but simply to provide a salary for a clerk and such a sum as would cover the expense of superintending the removal of dutiable goods.

Mr. RAFF moved, as an amendment on the original motion, that the item be postponed till the estimates for 1861 had been considered and reported on by the select committee appointed for the purpose.

The amendment having been seconded, Mr. FORBES said the want of a bonded store had been long and grievously felt at Ipswich, and he thought the attempt to throw cold water on the proposal of the Government came with particularly bad grace from the honorable member for North Brisbane (Mr. Raff). He would support the original motion, and trusted that no spirit of mere local jealousy would be allowed by honorable members to influence their proceedings in such matters as the one then under discussion.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN followed in the same strain, deprecating the opposition of the honorable member (Mr. Raff). He said it was not necessary for Ipswich to be a seaport, for it to have a bonded store, and instanced the cases of Limerick and Tralee respectively in proof of his assertion.

Mr. GORE did not rise to oppose the motion, but simply to suggest that the sum was too small for the purpose for which it was asked. He thought it would be an expensive undertaking for the Government to send a Custom-house officer with every parcel of dutiable goods forwarded to Ipswich. He considered it would be necessary, in order to prevent smuggling, to exercise such supervision.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY thought such supervision would be unnecessary, as he had no doubt that, in consideration of the freight he would receive for the carriage of bonded goods, the proprietor of one or other of the river steamers would be willing to set apart a space in the hold of his vessel for the special purpose of carrying such stores. The apartment could be under lock and Custom-house seal, and there would be no greater danger of smuggling from the vessel than from a store.

Mr. BLAKENEY ridiculed the notion that bonded stores would be safe on board one of the steamers without direct supervision, and said that the apartment would be readily broken into and the goods abstracted.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY explained that the same objection would apply to a store on land, which could be broken open or undermined by dishonest persons who designed to defraud the revenue.

Mr. THORN did not see how it could be necessary to send a Custom-house officer on board the Ipswich steamers, to take charge of bonded goods, when no such officer was required in the steamers plying betwixt Sydney and Brisbane. He had as great a confidence in the integrity of the masters of the river steamers as he had in the integrity of the officers in command of the coasting vessels.

MR. BUCKLEY drew attention to the inconveniences arising to a large trading community from the want of a bonded store, and explained the method in which he considered the arrangements for the establishment of a store at Ipswich could be satisfactorily carried out at an expense of not more than £300 per annum to the Government, the rest of the expenses being borne by those importers who used the store.

After much further discussion in which Messrs. Richards, Broughton, Taylor, Lilley, Jordan, and Watts, joined, the COLONIAL SECRETARY said he believed the bonded store would be a convenience to the merchants, and ought to be granted if that could be done, as he believed it could, at a small expense. But, as only one class of the community would be benefited, he should oppose large expenditure.

Mr. RAFF then, with leave of the house, withdrew his amendment, and the original motion was put and passed.

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed the following items which were carried.

For the General Post-office:—

Clerk, 1st class	...	...	...	...	...	£300
Clerk, 2nd class	...	...	...	...	...	200
Clerk, 3rd class	...	...	...	...	...	100

With regard to the last item Mr. JORDAN drew attention to the smallness of the amount and asked how the government expected a man to exist upon it. Application had been made to himself as one of the city members to obtain an increase for this person, who had heavy and responsible duties to perform, and had only £100 per annum for his labor.

The COLONIAL TREASURER stated that no application had been made to him for an increase of salary; but that on the contrary, when the holder of the situation applied for it, he had named £96 instead of £100 as remuneration for his own services. The government, however, would consider the case; but they thought they were not censurable in this matter, as this was the first occasion in which a complaint had reached their ears with regard to it.

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed for

Postmaster	...	...	...	...	...	£175
14 Country Postmasters	...	...	...	...	...	427

After considerable discussion of a conversational character, in the course of which complaint was made by Mr. TAYLOR, and supported by Messrs. O'SULLIVAN, JORDAN, LILLEY, and RAFF, against the smallness of the remuneration proposed for the country postmasters, the matter dropped, and the respective items were passed.

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed

3 Letter carriers at £120	...	...	...	...	...	£360
Messenger and sorter	...	...	...	...	...	90
For conveyance of mails within and beyond the settled districts	...	...	...	...	...	5720

The items, having been put in detail, were carried.

In proposing £4250 as subsidy to the A.S.N. Co. for conveyance of mails to the Northern Ports, the COLONIAL TREASURER explained that, in consequence of the failure of the vessel to perform one of her voyages, the sum of £250 had been deducted from the original amount of the contract—£5000. In reply to a question the honorable member stated in addition that the government had the whole subject of this contract under consideration, and would be prepared to deal with it in a manner which he believed would be satisfactory to the country.

The sum was accordingly voted.

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed the following items, which were passed in detail.

Gratuities to masters of vessels for carrying mails	.....	£220
Express Mail to Ipswich	.....	100
Landing and Shipping Mails including porterage	.....	30
Harbour, Light-house, and Pilot Department:—		
Harbour Master	.....	£300
Master of the Buoy Boat	.....	120

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER that £525 be granted for three Pilots at £175 each, Mr. LILLEY objected to the smallness of the sum, and drew the attention of the Government to the miserable character of the accommodation provided for the pilots at Moreton

Island.

The COLONIAL TREASURER stated that the Government were aware of the wants of the pilots in this respect, and intended to provide for them by placing a sum on the supplementary estimates sufficient for renewing or repairing the present accommodation.

Mr. WATTS drew attention to the fact that great inconvenience was experienced by masters of vessels from the want of a light-ship in the outer channel.

Mr. BLAKENEY and Mr. LILLEY followed in the same strain, after which the item was put and passed.

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed the following amounts which were carried without discussion:—

3 Boatmen at £96	...	...	...	...	£288
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	359
New Fairway Buoy and Repairs			...	...	112
For Light-house, Cape Moreton:—					
Superintendent	...	...	...	...	£216
Light-Keeper	...	...	...	...	108
2 Light-keepers at £84			...	...	168
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	420
For Harbour Master, Fitz Roy River:—					
Harbour Master	...	...	...	...	£100
Pilot	...	...	...	...	175
3 Boatmen at £96			...	...	240
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	350

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER the chairman left the chair, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again on Tuesday next.

Leave having been granted, the house adjourned, on the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY till 10 on Friday.